transporter

For the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Charitable drive is under way

The 1992 New Jersey State Employees' Charitable Campaign is under way.

"Many people are out of work and dependent on community services to see them through difficult economic times," said Helen Budd, the NJDOT chairwoman. "Your divisional chairperson will contact you soon and ask for your donation. As little as 50 cents per pay could make a difference in someone's life. Please give generously to help others."

Last year the Department exceeded its goal by 15% by pledging $67,979.

State awards $100 million for local projects

Commissioner Tom Downs listens to workers at a construction site in Summit during one of three public ceremonies held around the state on October 22 to announce $100 million in local highway aid.

Routes 19 and 70 open ahead of schedule; resident engineers describe the challenges

Governor Jim Florio opened long-awaited projects at either end of the state last week — the elimination of the Ellisburg Circle (Route 70) in Cherry Hill and the Route 19 Freeway connector between I-80 and downtown Paterson. While both projects presented special construction challenges, they were both completed well ahead of schedule.

Managing traffic during construction was the biggest challenge of the Ellisburg Circle project, according to Region IV resident engineer Ron D'Adamo.

"It was an animal unto itself," he said. "The more work got under way, the more traffic was impacted. It became very clear that we should try to finish as quickly as possible." The project finished one year ahead of time.

"This job involved daily coordination with merchants, police and utility companies," D'Adamo said. "It was frustrating at times, but I was helped by an excellent team of inspectors, Department staff and a cooperative contractor," said the 15-year NJDOT veteran.

D'Adamo singled out construction inspector John Gaspari, also a 15-year Department employee, with an "extraordinary knowledge of construction," helpful as well as a reference library of knowledge.

NJDOT held a nationwide design contest in the early 1980s for schemes to eliminate the Ellisburg Circle. Jerry Canter, then the Gloucester County Engineer, submitted the winning design. NJDOT added jughandles to his plan.

Route 19

The new Route 19 connector, awaited by Paterson residents for more than 20 years, was completed in exactly three years, eight months ahead of schedule.

Jeff Hewitson in Region 1 Design directed the design scheme for the new I-80 interchange, connecting ramps and half-mile roadway. "I was at the opening ceremony and was pleased with the results. There are many unforeseen things in urban construction and we learned a lot from this experience. But we wouldn't have been successful without an experienced resident engineer like Art Poehler," Hewitson said.

Poehler, in turn, praised his team of Region 2 construction engineers and technicians. "Jim Kearney, Andrew Rusin, John Morris, Michael Priore and William Neu made it all happen," he said. "Value engineering saved us eight months of work and tens of thousands of dollars," he said.

Commissioner Tom Downs added his thanks to both of the teams that worked on the projects. "Many NJDOTers worked long and hard over the years to make these projects become a reality. All employees who contributed to the projects from the early planning stages to final construction should take great pride in the opening of both of the highways."

After 34 years, Region III's Nick Cifelli retires

Nicholas J. Cifelli, 56, the first to hold the title of Executive Director of Region III under the recent decentralization, has retired after 34 years of service.

This was not the only "first" in his career. Cifelli played a key role in several important projects.

"I was the Department's first project engineer," he said. "I was assigned the Newark Airport complex, including all the construction work in and near the airport on Routes 78, 1, 9, and 22.

"I also served as resident engineer on the longest tunnel the state ever built, one that almost no one knows about," he said. "It was a 4.5 mile drainage tunnel under I-280 from West Orange to the Passaic River."

A graduate of the Newark College of Engineering, Cifelli joined the Department in 1958 as a Civil Engineer trainee in the Region II Bridge Division in Newark where he grew up. He admits that he first took the job just to get some experience. However, the challenging work and a timely promotion, convinced him to make NJDOT his career.

"I have no complaints at all," Cifelli said. "I have enjoyed the work, my co-workers, the various consultants I have dealt with and even the occasional complaint from the general public."

Cifelli said that he will miss his co-workers but knows that the region is in "good hands." "I have been meeting weekly with my successor Dan Wolfe for several months to ease the transition," he said.

For now he just wants to play golf, perhaps becoming the first retired Executive Director to score a "hole-in-one." He also plans to catch up on work on the home in Old Bridge which he shares with Terry, his wife of 33 years. They have four children Mary Ann, Barbara, John and Nick Jr. Nick is especially proud of his grandson, "Little Eddie."

Retired Executive Director Nick Cifelli chats with his secretary Susan Rubinetti prior to his retirement this past summer.

NJDOT Blue Ribbons

August 13, 1992
Dear Mrs. **[Diane] Riggs:**

I wish to thank you for your prompt attention and action to my request of August 4 regarding the cleaning of the catch basin along Route 35 here in Ortley Beach ...

I appreciate your concern and also the time and courtesy of **Robert Kutrieb** who responded to my complaint on the phone.With employees like you and Mr. Kutrieb, I, as a taxpayer, feel the State of New Jersey is doing "something right"...

—Marie Zettl, Ortley Beach

October 21, 1992
Dear Mr. **[Michael] Gross:**

We at Suburban are very thankful to the Department of Transportation for our Park and Ride lot. The professional manner in which **JoAnne Schutz** handled this paving project kept all inconvenience and delays to a minimum. Planning and communication were thorough and, if any problems occurred, they were dealt with in a timely and efficient fashion.

Our riders will certainly benefit from all these efforts, and I thank you.

—Kenneth S. Kuchin, President, Suburban Transit Corporation

August 17, 1992
To: Michael Kjetsaa

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of the extraordinary effort put forth by members of the Bureau of Materials staff to carry out the recent purchases of testing and computer equipment. ...It represented about 20 times the normal amount of equipment purchasing that the bureau would make in a year. The entire procedure involved a herculean effort on the part of **Arthur Egan, John Archibald. Eileen Connolly and Robert Scancella** and their staffs.

— Henry Justus, Chief, Bureau of Materials

Wolfe takes over Region III

Daniel Wolfe has succeeded Nicholas J. Cifelli as Executive Director in Region III. A 20-year NJDOT veteran, Wolfe was Manager of the Bureau of Structural Engineering Services in Trenton before assuming his new responsibilities in September.

Wolfe was a First Lieutenant in the US Army prior to his state service and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Newark College of Engineering.

Send in your Blue Ribbon submissions to the Communications Office.

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Governor Jim Florio
Commissioner Tom Downs

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